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REMARKS

Claims 10-12 and 14 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1-9 and 13 have been canceled from the application. Claims 15-22 stand withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the restriction requirement. New claims 23-27 have been added to the application. All of the pending claims stand rejected.

Restriction Requirement

Applicants confirm their election of Group I, claims 1-14 for examination at this time. Applicants traverse the Restriction Requirement between Group I (claims 1-14) and Group II (claims 15-22) because the Group II claims are process claims commensurate with the products claimed in Group I, and as such, do not require further search by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction is requested.

During a telephone conversation on August 8, 2006, the Examiner also required that Applicants elect a single distinct species between graphite filler (Species I) and carbon nanotubes (Species II). In Paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner reports that Applicants' attorney provisionally elected to prosecute Species II directed to carbon nanotubes. The file notes of Applicants' attorney from the telephone conversation of August 8, 2006 indicate that Applicants' attorney provisionally elected to prosecute Species 1 directed to graphite filler. Applicants would like to confirm their desire to prosecute Species 1 directed to graphite filler at this time.

Claim Objections

Dependant claims 6 and 13 were objected to for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claims 6 and 13 have been canceled from the application.

Rejection under Section 112

Claims 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, and 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner objected to the use of the words "preferably" and "most preferably". Claims 2, 7, 9, 16, and 22 have been canceled. Claim 9 has been rewritten as new claims 23-25, and claim 14 has been amended and supplemented with new dependant claims 26 and 27.

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Prior Art Rejections

Rejection Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takagi et al. (U.S. Patent no. 7,008,991). Claim 1 has been canceled.

Rejection Under 35 USC 103

Claims 2-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious from Takagi et al. (U.S. Patent no. 7,008,991). The Takagi patent is directed to a thermoplastic resin composition comprising two different thermoplastic resins, carbon black and hollow carbon fibrils. One of the thermoplastic resins (Component A) is an amorphous thermoplastic resin and the other thermoplastic resin (Component B) is a crystalline thermoplastic resin. The disclosure of suitable Component As extends for 190 lines of the patent covering a multitude of different amorphous thermoplastic resin. Just one of the very large number of possible amorphous thermoplastic resins disclosed is a styrene - maleic anhydride copolymer. The disclosure of suitable Component Bs extends for another 141 lines of the patent covering a multitude of different crystalline thermoplastic resins. Just one of the very large number of possible crystalline thermoplastic resins disclosed is liquid crystal polymer. Between the two lists, thousands of different combinations are possible, just one of which might be a composition containing both liquid crystal polymer and styrene - maleic anhydride copolymer.

Pending claims 10-12, 14 and 23-27 are directed to a conductive flow field separator plate, comprising from about 0.5 wt% to about 40 wt% of the liquid crystal polymer, from about 0.5 wt% to about 40 wt% of the poly(styrene-co-maleic anhydride), and from about 20 wt% to about 99 wt% of conductive filler. The Takagi patent does not disclose or suggest conductive flow field separator plates. Nor does the Takagi patent disclose or suggest the such plates comprised of the specific combination of liquid crystal polymer, poly(styrene-co-maleic anhydride) and conductive filler. There is no suggestion in the long lists of amorphous and crystalline polymers disclosed in the Takagi patent for making the particular conductive flow field separator plates recited in the pending claims of the present application. Nor is there any suggestion that separator plates comprised of the specific combination of liquid crystal polymer, poly(styrene-co-maleic anhydride) and conductive filler would be as strong and conductive as separator plates comprised of liquid crystal polymer without poly(styrene-co-maleic anhydride), would be lighter than separator plates comprised of liquid crystal polymer without poly(styrene-co-maleic anhydride), and would be more economical than separator plates comprised of liquid crystal polymer without poly(styrene-co-maleic anhydride), as is discussed in the specification of the present application. Accordingly,

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Applicants submit that pending claims 10-12, 14 and 23-27 are not rendered obvious from the Takagi patent.

It is believed that the foregoing is a complete response to the subject Office Action. In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested. If any fee is required to authorize or obtain consideration of this response, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1928.

Respectfully submitted,



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